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State Dept. review completed

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Reference Bonn 2940, Mar 23, repeated London 487. Bonn 3080, April 2, repeated London 487, URTEL 4030, March 19,

Kersten Comite has indicated to DEPT it wishes conduct private closed

interviews in London on EMB or other USGOV premises. Comite says arrangements being made with GOV FEDREP for such closed interviews in Munich will not sufficiently serve Comites purposes since large NER Polish refugees now in UK should be heard and it is impracticable transport them all to Munich. DEPT has explained to Comite that UKGOV originally objected strongly to either open or closed hearings in 1952 in case Katyn Comite. Kersten Comite however knows that in fact Katyn Comite did interview NER persons in private in London and feels that similar arrangements could be made. (URTEL 16610, APR 16, 1952.)
DEPT has indicated unlikelihood permission being granted but has undertaken query UKGOV.

Dist. Desired (Offices

Unless you see substantial reasons to contrary, request informal approach be made to FOMOFF to determine PRIT reaction this suggestion.

TYI arrangements being made for Comite interviews in CER would involve undertaking by Comite to limit scope of testimony to Soviet methods in satellite areas avoiding controversial issues prejudicial to interests of FERREP and

Drafted by:

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

HaBiBrownsfg helle-5h

Ben H. Brown Jr.

Clearances

MA- Mr. Beale (in draft form)

AUR MIS

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undertaking make no disclesures of testimony or nature of testimony while Comite in GER. DEPT assumes Comite would agree to same understandings if anthorization given by UKGOV.

SMITH